1947 MOUNT DIABLO W6CX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB WWW.MDARC.ORG

THE CARRIER

The monthly newsletter for the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

Volume LXXV - Number 5 – May 2026

Friday May 15, 2026 7pm
Our Saviors Lutheran Church
1035 Carol Lane Lafayette
License Testing 5:30pm

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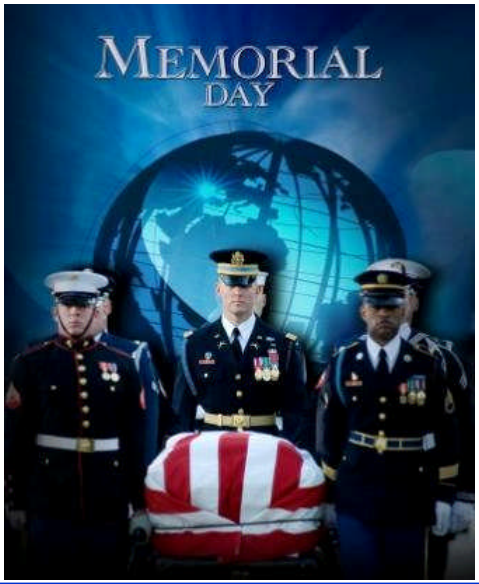

THIS MONTH

Locating and *Killing* Receiver Interference

by Gary Johnson, NA6O

Anyone who operates in the HF bands knows that noise and interference are often your greatest challenge when it comes to hearing other stations. This talk will discuss various sources of interference, how to locate problems, and how to mitigate them. Methods presented here are also useful in cases where your transmitter is causing problems with other equipment. Some tips regarding Field Day interference issues will be included.

NA6O has been licensed since 1972 and primarily enjoys contesting, station building, antenna design, and anything involving CW. He is an electronics engineer, retired after 35 years at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

RFI website https://na6o.com/rfi/rfi_home.html

The meeting will also be held virtually, via the Zoom video system. The meeting access ID and password will be distributed via groups.io email announcement.

We have many accomplished and experienced club members. After all, we are an ARRL Special Service Club! The club is looking for amateur radio or communications topics that you or someone you know could present at a future club meeting.

An alternative might be several short presentations on different topics made by multiple persons.

Please direct your suggestions to info@mdarc.org.

Your contribution is vital for the continued success of MDARC. We are eager to hear from you!

ALL MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE FREE CLUB E-MAIL GROUP AT:

https://groups.io/g/MDARC

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Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club W6CX
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The Carrier is a monthly publication of the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC). It is the policy of the editor to publish all material submitted by the membership provided such material is in good taste, relevant to amateur radio and of interest to MDARC members, and provided space is available.

President - Larry Bradley, KK6QPE
Vice President - Mark A. Cloud, W6SXA
Secretary – Brian Lotter, KM6NGS
Treasurer - Barbara Whysong, K6WHY
Emergency Coordinator - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

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Trevor Hall, WA6JAU Mike Warren, W6MEW

Membership Chair – Jan Kulisek, KM6NFC
mdarcmembership@mdarc.org

PACIFICON

Chair: Julie Mah, WJ8MAH
Registration: Jim Marchetti, KD7G
Treasurer: Barbara Whysong, K6WHY
Secretary: Jeff Mah, N8MAH

COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COORDINATORS

Annual Auction - **vacant**
Communications Trailer - Mike Warren, W6MEW
Communications Van MDARC-1 - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
Digital Media - Grant Bowman, K6CBK
Education & Training - **vacant**
Field Day - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Good & Welfare - Diana Sage, KA6TZU
Holiday Dinner - Misa Siemons, KJ6BUE
License Testing - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Outreach - Dick Wade, WM6G
Programs - Mark A. Cloud, W6SXA
Public Service - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB
Radio Equipment Lending - Cal Vasquez, K6VT
Refreshments - Elizabeth Styles, KG6HLV
Scholarship - Janice Fujii, KG6VTD
Technical Committee - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
Volunteer Classes - Dick Wade, WM6G
W6CX Repeater Trustee - Jim Tittle, K6SOE
W6LGW Callsign Trustee - Larry Loomer, KI6LNB

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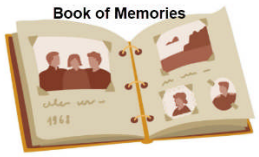

MDARC Family,
For this month's President Message, I thought it would be nice to pull out the **Book of Memories** for something that happened way back when. I know that what I recall is something that many of you have also done years ago. This memory was brought to mind by a recent YouTube video titled **"The Mistake That Built Heathkit, and the America That Buried It"** **https://youtu.be/lUQOG1hp54g?si=W4_WAYAnrC2mXm6T**

Back in the summer of 1972 I was a student with the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) at the University of Washington in Seattle and most of the students lived in the same house near campus. This was my second summer with SIL and it was a very immersive time of study in language phonetics, morphology, and language learning exercises. Needless to say, I looked for some type of physical and mental outlet ….and found it in building two kits from Dynaco: a stereo receiver and an amplifier. No, these weren't Heathkit kits, although those would have made for a much better learning experience. So, in the evening I'd find myself in the basement reading the instructions such as "Solder X wire to 'B' location". And for soldering? Never done it before. And my soldering pencil? No such luck. All I had was a soldering gun! But you know, I put both of these kits together and they both worked. I used the stereo receiver for many years and donated the amplifier to a missionary group to be used in their radio broadcasting studio in Surinam.

Many of you have similar memories of getting Heathkits and painstakingly reading through the manual, soldering all the necessary components, learning as you went, and ended up with some reliable equipment. Even better, after the experience you knew how to troubleshoot not just the equipment you built, but you were able to use that knowledge for future endeavors and to help fellow Hams. For some of you, this kit-building experience even helped launch your career in electronics.

I wish there were such instructional Heathkits available now to fill the missing learning gap that non-electronics people like me could use so we could increase our electronics knowledge. But alas, I know of no such kits. But if you do, let me know!

Don't get me started about the demise of Radio Shack!

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BEACON Exercise anyone?! Did you feel the simulated 8.8 magnitude earthquake along the San Andreas Fault in the early morning hours of April 30th? Many local hams participated in varied roles throughout our local cities as we role-played identifying infrastructure damage, community needs, and our own situational awareness. From what I heard during the post-event hotwash, there were lots of lessons learned and anticipated actions to follow.

(continued on following page)

What are your first thoughts when you think about Public Service? Is it about biking events like we have on Mount Diablo or actual road races like the Berkeley Hills Road Race? Is it long distance trail runs, perhaps even ultra marathons?

Public Service not only supports those events, but also charities…even charities that have had or could have, a direct bearing on you, a family member, or somebody you know.

A recent example would be the **MS Walk in Walnut Creek** sponsored by the National MS Society and starting at Heather Farm Park.

It is easy to forget that the initials "MS" are for a very serious disease.

*" Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a **neurological disorder** in which the immune system mistakenly attacks **myelin**, the protective sheath around nerve fibers in the brain, spinal cord, and optic nerves. This damage slows or blocks nerve signals, leading to a wide range of symptoms. Over time, the nerve fibers themselves may also be damaged, leaving scar-line areas called **lesions** or **plaques**, which is the origin of the term 'multiple sclerosis.'"*

By providing radio communications for these charities, we support their work by helping the event organizers maintain a safe experience for the participants.

Here are some pictures that I especially like.

Benjo, KA6BJS taking the role as Net Control for this 1 or 3-mile walk around the neighborhood. What is so nice to see are the children taking an interest…albeit it may have been the snacks, but still a "contact with the public."

Because these events usually involve short distances and are low key, it is a great opportunity for new and old Hams to put in a few hours of their time and experience.

In most of our public service events, we typically are behind the scenes and geographically spread throughout the biking or running route. But with these charities, amateur radio has a much more public exposure. Consider this picture at the beginning of this MS Walk with lots of people that see ham radio operators. Also, consider that as these people walked along the course, each one passed Ham radio operators stationed along the course. They could help but notice us.

Be sure to check out www.mdarc.org for other the public service opportunities. An opportunity to contribute both your skills and learn along the way.

73, Larry Bradley, KK6QPE

$$ Donations $$

Donations by MDARC members and non-member supporters and by Pacificon enthusiasts are an important source of income for MDARC. Donations we receive support our Mt. Diablo repeaters, our MDARC operating expenses, license testing for candidates, and a number of Pacificon activities and operating expenses. We gratefully appreciate our generous donors!

Anyone who donated, any amount (even $5!), and who wants a receipt for their taxes, please send a request to treasurer@mdarc.org.

PACIFICON 2026 ANNOUNCEMENT

I am proud to announce that PACIFICON, the ARRL Pacific Division Convention, will be held October 16, 17, 18, 2026 again at the San Ramon Marriott Hotel, 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon, California.

On line registration opens on April 1, 2026 and closes at midnight on October 1, 2026.

https://www.pacificon.org/registration/attendees

Registration prices are the same as 2025. Enjoy the antenna seminar, lots of vendors with special deals, transmitter hunts, kit building and a variety of amateur radio forums.

73,

Jim Marchetti, KD7G
Registration and Marketing Chair
PACIFICON 2026

AMATEUR RADIO FD★26 A NATIONAL RESOURCE

Saturday June 27, 2026 - Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club Field Day in Concord. Amateur radio operators, "Hams" communicate by short wave radio with other hams for hobby AND for public service in times of disaster.

On June 27th and 28th all over America, 35,000 Hams will turn out for a nationwide "Field Day". YOU ARE INVITED to share in the experience as our radio operators contact other hams across the country and around the world.

JOIN IN to watch, listen, and actually talk on the radio. Send your name in morse code. Learn how you too can become a ham radio operator. See how hams assist during disasters. It all starts at 11:00 am Saturday, June 27th and runs through 11am Sunday June 28th at Olympic High School**,** 2730 Salvio Street**,** Concord, CA.

For more information see https://www.MDARC.org/activities/field-day or contact Larry Loomer at laryloomer@yahoo.com.

Low-Cost Receivers for Digital Amateur Television Reception Available For Sale from Club Member KA3VDT

These are DVB-S2 receivers pre-programmed for our club's 1.2 GHz W6CX DATV repeater output frequencies

Connect a 1.2 GHz vertically-polarized directional antenna, aim it at Mount Diablo's North Peak and watch the over the air repeater signal on your video monitor

Please contact Will Roberts at ka3vdt@gmail.com or visit http://laser66.com/ham/

PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS – 2026

To sign up for a MDARC public service event, go to https://www.mdarc.org/public service
Go down to the Volunteer Registration Form and enter your Information for each event.
To volunteer for events from other clubs, click the sign up link listed in the event notice.
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MDARC - Cancer Hope Walk

Saturday, May 16, 2026
Walk at Civic Park in Walnut Creek
Radio Coordinator: Larry Loomer, KI6LNB <laryloomer@yahoo.com>
https://cancersupport.net/event/hope-walk/
https://p2p.onecause.com/2026hopewalk

SDARC - Linden Cherry Festival

Saturday, May 16, 2026
Festival in Linden
Radio Coordinator: Cecil W6CPR
https://lindenchamber.net/cherryfestival

LARK - Boy Scout Hike FAGES-II

Saturday, June 6, 2026
Scouts Hike 20 miles in Richmond Wildcat Canyon Reg. Park
Radio Coordinator: Dave Shaw, WB6WTM <wb6wtm@arrl.net>
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0844AEAD28A6FA7-scouts

ORCA - The Sequoia Bicycle Challenge - San Mateo County

Sunday, June 7, 2026
Bicycle race in Los Altos Hills
SignUp: https://westernwheelersbicycleclub.wildapricot.org/event-6520842
https://westernwheelersbicycleclub.wildapricot.org/Sequoia

MARS - Dipsea

Sunday, June 14, 2026
Running race in Marin
Radio Coordinator: Larry Loomer, KI6LNB <laryloomer@yahoo.com>
https://docs.google.com/document/d/15JH7i1-_ml87K-BbdllhQ09T86uc3nlG/edit
https://www.dipsea.org

Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club License Testing Dates/Locations

2026

5/15 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

MDARC will hold a license testing session at 5:30 PM, before the membership meeting, at our club's meeting site, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

This is a walk-in session – no reservation necessary. All three license levels are available for testing. Volunteer examiners are standing by for immediate testing.

Your test score is available immediately upon completion of your test. You may take all three tests at one sitting if you would like to do so. Bring your driver's license, or two school-related forms of identification, and the $15 testing fee. If you choose to use a calculator, you must demonstrate that the memory is empty. Study Well.

5/26 Class: 1578 Kirker Pass Road, Clayton (Concord)

6/19 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

6/27 Field Day Olympic High School, 2730 Salvio Street, Concord

7/17 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

8/11 Class: 1578 Kirker Pass Road, Clayton (Concord)

8/21 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

9/18 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

10/17, 10/18 Pacificon: 2600 Bishop Drive, San Ramon

11/20 Club Meeting: 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

12/19 1578 Kirker Pass Road, Clayton (Concord)

This QR code directs users to the ham study locator page for the 94549 zip code (https://ham.study/sessions/94549/inperson). Test candidates should review the list and find the MDARC session amongst the others listed.

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MOUNT DIABLO
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Get your first amateur radio license!
Attend the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club 2026 8-week Technician License class beginning June 16, 2026.
Share this flyer with your friends and family so they can get their ham radio license too.

Register now for the Following 2026 Amateur Radio Technician License Course

*** All 2026 License *Classes* are held via Zoom and simultaneously in-person at:**

Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church
1578 Kirker Pass Road
Clayton, CA 94517

*** A $15.00 course fee applies to each course.**

*** All classes are held Tuesday evenings 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.**

*** Follow the link below to complete the required registration**

Level 1 Technician License Course Registration

Tuesday evenings, June 16 – August 4, 2026 (8 Sessions)
and two Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) sessions.

GOTA #1 Tuesday, August 18, 2026; 7:00 - 9:00 PM via Zoom or in-person
GOTA #2 Tuesday, August 25, 2026; 7:00-9:00 PM **in-person only**.

The complete 2026 License course schedule and course details can be found at:

https://www.mdarc.org/education-and-testing/class-details

MDARC CAMPOUT June 5, 6, 7, 2026

Located at the Sugar Pine Dam Recreation Area in the Forbes Creek section at the Rocky Ridge group site. It is one of the most beautiful spots in Placer County. This will be a joint venture between our club and a another group of radio amateurs who have meeting for this annual event for over 50 years. We are limited to 50 people at this site so get your reservations in early.

At approximately 3,000 feet above sea level, the campground has water and restroom facilities, no hookups, but nice spaces for trailers, tents and motor homes. There are three large barbecue pits available at our site as well as a large recessed pit for a grand campfire. There are plenty of trees as well as open space for stringing a G5RV and a double extended Zepp for your HF station if it is your desire to bring one.

Call-in will be on the Mount Diablo W6CX (147.06 +600 100hz PL) repeater.

Friday

Between 12 noon and 1 PM, the forest ranger will arrive to unlock the gate for access to our site. The gate will remain open through out our stay. Also during this time and throughout the afternoon and the early evening the 145.43 repeater (PL 162.2hz), as well as the 146.745 -600 W6SAR Foresthill PL 156.7 will be monitored. If you are a a distance away from the campsite, the Mt. Diablo W6CX repeater will be available. When you arrive, park at any of the available spaces. There are plenty.

That evening, you are on your own for dinner. Use your Weber or the barbecue pits provided at the site.

A campfire and star party with telescopes will take place after dark.

Saturday

In the morning, you are on your own for breakfast after which, if you desire, join us for a hike to and around the lake. Weather pending, the view will be picture postcard as we make our way around. We will pass the swimming area and cross the dam as we make our way back to Rocky Ridge. The hike should take approximately 2 hours.

After arriving back at the campsite, you are on your own for lunch if you desire but most of us would probably settle for a tall cold one. Later on you can scrounge around for wood for the campfire that night. Around 4:30 the full socializing begins and the bar is open. Bring out the appetizers and munches which is part of the pot luck. Also during this time, the host supplied charcoal will be prepared and the barbecue pits will be lit. However, before dinner as an idea conceived by Fred Townsend AE6QL, we will have a champagne cork popping contest. To participate in this event, bring your own champagne ...***AND NO BOTTLES WITH SCREW-ON CAPS… CORK ONLY.***

As for dinner that follows, the hot coals will be provided for cooking your choice of meat. Please bring out a side dish, salad, rolls for dinner and dessert to share.

After dinner, the camp fire will be started so bring your own marshmallows. The sticks will be provided by the campsite. Enjoy the fire as we sing, chat, or whatever you would like to do at this time. Plus we will have a real space odyssey star party with a few astronomical telescopes set up.

(continued on following page)

Sunday

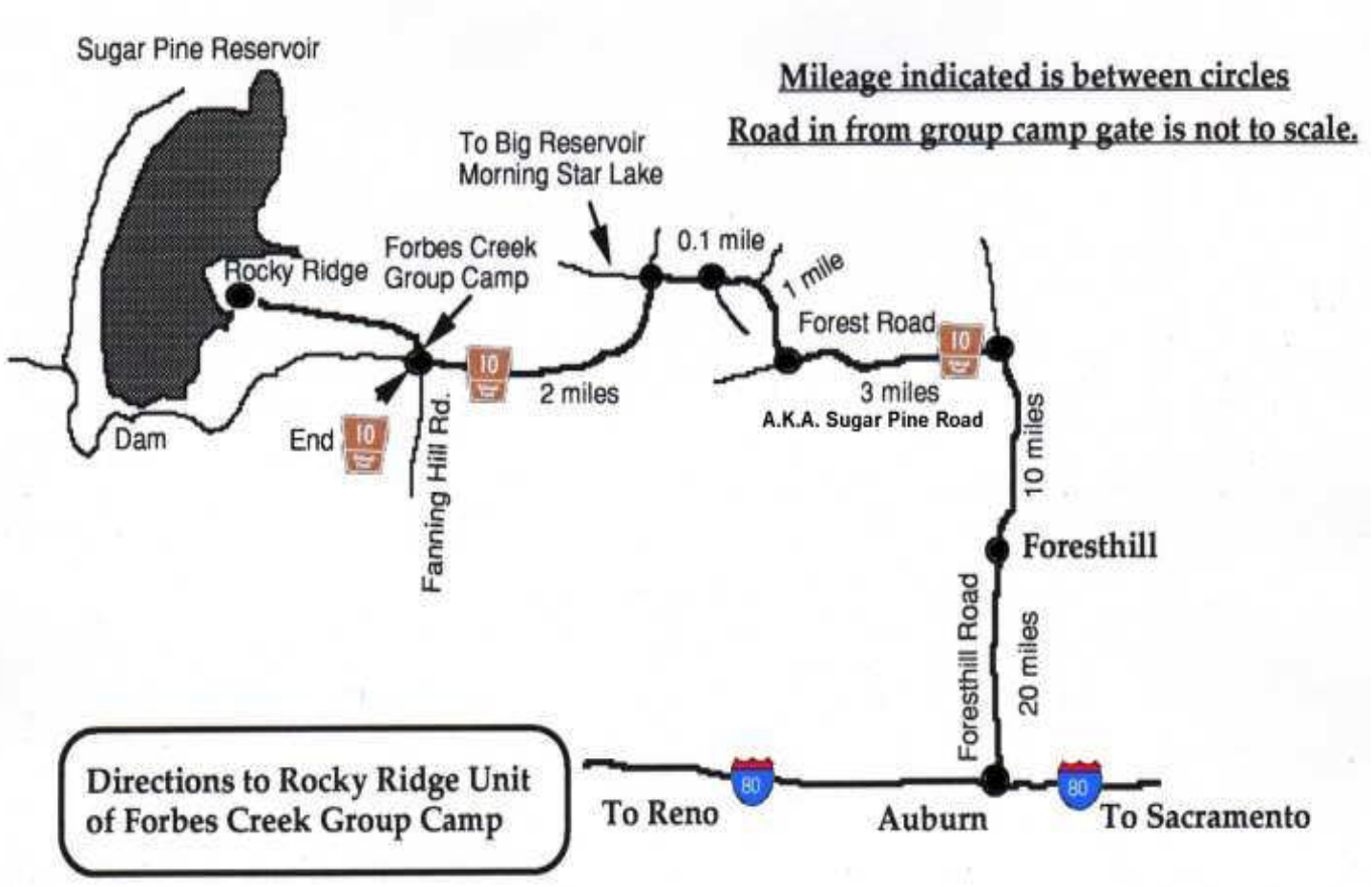
At approximately 8 am, preparation will be underway for the host provided barbecued pancakes. Supply your own beverages and sides and share if you like.

Looks Great...Now How Do We Get There??

From San Francisco, drive east on Interstate 80 through Auburn and exit at Foresthill. Head east on Foresthill Road crossing the mile long panoramic American River Bridge. Continue heading east for about 20 miles and you will reach the town of Foresthill. After passing through town continue east for another 10 miles and turn left at Sugar Pine Dam Road. There should be sign just before you reach the junction. Once you are on Sugar Pine Dam Road (Route 10), follow the road carefully, there are a few turnoffs that can possibly throw you off course. **If you have any questions while on Foresthill or Sugar Pine Dam road, you should be in simplex range. Monitor 146.49. The 145.43 (PL 162.2) Auburn repeater should also be available and it will be the primary talk-in to get you to the site.** In any case, stay on the blacktop. Eventually you approach a junction with the main road going slightly to the left and a road going slightly to the right with a gate which should be open for us. This is also the junction where route 10 ends as indicated by a sign even though the road continues. As you go past the gate, there is a sign posted there marking the reserved group campsites. Follow the signs for the Rocky Ridge site which will be reserved for us. The total drive time from San Francisco to the campground should be approximately 3 hours if you avoid the Bay Area and Sacramento rush hours.

In the late morning, it's cleanup time and we say our good-byes until next year.

RSVP. to Julie Mah, WJ8MAH juliemah4@yahoo.com



2026 Carmichael Elks Ham Radio and Electronics Swap Meet May 31

The 2026 Annual Carmichael Elks Ham Radio and Electronics Swap Meet is scheduled for Sunday, May 31 from 7 am to 11 am at the Carmichael Elks Lodge on the corner of Cypress and Hackberry, 5631 Cypress Ave, Carmichael, CA 95608. Parking is FREE to buyers on the east lot.

For Sellers: South lot spaces are $10 each space. Thank an Elk for this great price!

The Elks Lodge will be selling coffee, water, maybe dogs and doughnuts.

Meet other hams and radio and electronics hobbyists!

Win Door Prizes!

Visit the ARRL Information booth.

There will be an electronic salvage trailer available for stuff you want to donate. This is a LEAVE NO TRACE event. We want to leave the Elks facility cleaner than we found it!

— Ben Parrish, K6GEO

Minden, Nevada N7RCA Radio Ranch Swap Meet
Saturday June 6, 2026 7am until ??? FREE !

(Photos from www.N7RCA.com)

Radio, Electronics and Hi-Fi Swap Meet

No fee event, free for the hobbyist!

Swap meet is on N7RCA's 6-acre ranch. Parking, trailers and RV have easy access.

BRING LOTS OF STUFF BY THE TRUCK LOAD !

WHERE: N7RCA Radio Ranch, 1780 Bobcat Court, Minden, NV
(20 miles from South Lake Tahoe) 15 miles south of Carson City NV

WHAT TO BRING:
*Yourself, truckloads of equipment if you have it, family, friends etc.
*Bring your own drinks and food etc., none provided.
*Bring your own chairs and tables to use, none provided.

Sellers may set up the night before (let N7RCA know you want to do this)
RV's welcome on the ranch, before and after the swap meet...lots of parking

Map and contact information at www.N7RCA.com

Weather Outlook: Temps in the day time can range from mid 60's to mid 80's. Nights in the 60's to low 40's. Bring a hat and sunscreen...elevation is 5000 feet .

Notice: *This event is a non-commercial event, not for profit. N7RCA is not a party to any sale, claim or warranty from attendees. Owner is not responsible for any loss, damages or injury while on the property. Attend at your own risk.*

If you don't agree to these terms, please do not attend.

HAM RADIO OUTLET®

WWW.HAMRADIO.COM

May is Hamvention month at HRO!

IC-9700 | *All Mode Tri-Band Transceiver*

• VHF/UHF/1.2GHz • Direct Sampling Now Enters the VHF/UHF Arena • 4.3" Touch Screen Color TFT LCD • Real-Time, High-Speed Spectrum Scope & Waterfall Display • Smooth Satellite Operation

IC-7760 | *HF150MHZ All Mode Transceiver*

• New Design-Remote Control Head & Separate RF Deck • Dual Independent Receivers, Spectrum Scope & Waterfall • 200 Watts Output 100% Duty Cycle • Flexible Remote Operation Capabilities

IC-7300MK2 | *HF/50MHz All Mode Transceiver*

• HDMI™ Port for External Display • RX-ANT Connectors for Band Pass Filters, Preamps & Receiving Antennas • Built-In CW Decoder • APF (Audio Peak Filter) for CW Signals

IC-7610 | *HF/50 MHz All Mode Transceiver*

• Large 7-inch color display with high resolution real-time spectrum scope and waterfall • Independent direct sampling receivers capable of receiving two bands/two modes simultaneously

IC-R8600 | *Wideband SDR Receiver*

10 kHz to 3 GHz Super Wideband Coverage • Real-time Spectrum Scope w/Waterfall Function • Remote Control Function through IP Network or USB Cable • Decodes Digital Incl P25, NXDN™, D-STAR • SD Card Slot for Receiver Recorder

IC-PW2 | *HF-50 MHz 1kW Linear Amplifier*

• 1kW Output Full Duty Single Operator Two Radios (SO2R) • Built-in Automatic Antenna Tuner • Detachable Controller with Touch Screen Display • 2x6 Automatic Antenna Selector - 2 Radio Inputs & 6 Antenna Connections

IC-705 | *HF/50/144/430 MHz All Mode Transceiver*

• RF Direct Sampling • Real-Time Spectrum Scope and Waterfall Display • Large Color Touch Screen • Supports QRP/QRPp • Bluetooth® and Wireless LAN Built-in

IC-7100 | *All Mode Transceiver*

• HF/50/144/430/440 MHz Multi-band, Multi-mode, IF DSP • D-STAR DV Mode (Digital Voice + Data) • Intuitive Touch Screen Interface • Built-in RTTY Functions

IC-2730A | *VHF/UHF Dual Band Transceiver*

• VHF/VHF, UHF/UHF simultaneous receive • 50 watts of output on VHF and UHF • Optional VS-3 Bluetooth® headset • Easy-to-See large white backlight LCD • Controller attachment to the main Unit

ID-5100 AD

VHF/UHF Dual Band Digital Transceiver

• Analog FM/D-Star DV Mode • SD Card Slot for Voice & Data Storage • 50W Output on VHF/UHF Bands • Integrated GPS Receiver • AM Airband Dualwatch

IC-V3500 | *144MHz FM Mobile*

• 65W of Power for Long Range Communications • 4.5 Watts Loud & Clear Audio • Modern White Display & Simple Operation • Weather Channel Receive & Alert Function

ID-50A | *VHF/UHF D-STAR Portable*

• High Visible LCD with Backlight Function • Find Nearby Repeaters with the Built-In GPS • Easy D-STAR Settings for Beginners • Voice Recorder Function • Share Pictures in DV Mode

IC-V86 | *VHF 7W HT*

• 7W OutputPower Plus New Antenna Provides 1.5 Times More Coverage • More Audio, 1500 mW Audio Output • IP54 & MIL-STD 810G–Rugged Design Against Dust & Water • 19 Hours of Long Lasting Battery Life • 200 Memory Channels, 1 Call Channel & 6 Scan Edges

IC-T10 | *Rugged 144/430 MHz Dual Band*

• Disaster Ready - Excellent Fit for Your Emergency Bag • Loud Audio - New Speaker Design • Long Bettery Life - Up to 11 Hours • FM Broadcast & Weather Channels

ID-52A | *VHF/UHF D-STAR Portable*

• Bluetooth® Communication • Simultaneous Reception in V/V, U/U, V/U and DV/DV • Enriched D-STAR® Features Including the Terminal Mode/Access Point Mode • UHF (225~374.995MHz) Air Band Reception

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PHONE – Toll-free phone hours 9:30AM - 5:30PM
FAX – All store locations
ONLINE – WWW.HAMRADIO.COM
MAIL – All store locations

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The Carrier
Newsletter of the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523
www.mdarc.org

Year of the Club 2026 Amateur Radio

FIRST CLASS

https://www.facebook.com/mdarc.org

https://www.linkedin.com/companies/mdarc

W6CX Nets

M-F 5:42 am Morning Muster 147.060+ 224.780- 441.325+

M-F 6:10am Commuter Net 147.060+ 224.780- 441.325+

Monday 8:00 pm SATERN Net 147.060+

Tuesday 7:30 pm Fat City 10 meter USB/CW Net 28.420 MHz

Tuesday 8:00pm Digital Practice Net 147.060+ 224.78- 441.325+

Wednesday 6:00pm American Legion Veteran's Net 147.060+

Wednesday 7:00 pm SKYWARN Net 147.060+

Wednesday 8:00pm Delta Amateur Radio Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 7:30 pm MDARC Club Net 147.060+

Thursday 8:00 pm Digital Amateur Television Net 147.060+

Club Voice Repeaters (FM unless otherwise noted)
147.060 MHz + / PL 100Hz
224.780 MHz - / PL 77Hz 441.325 MHz + / PL 100Hz
EchoLink: W6CX-R /133896, IRLP: 3057
DMR Repeater 144.925 offset plus 2.5 MHz color code 1
D-STAR 145.000 offset plus 2.5 MHz
https://w6cx.dstargateway.org/

Contra Costa County Emergency Communications Nets
Every Thursday

6:30 pm HF Countywide 3.893 MHz LSB

6:45 pm West County 145.110-- (82.5 PL)

7:00 pm Central County 145.680 Simplex

7:00 pm East County 146.535 Simplex

7:00 pm South County 147.480 Simplex
7:20 pm Countywide 145.490-- (107.2 PL)
or 147.735-- (107.2 PL)
or 145.410-- (107.2 PL)

Concord Auxiliary Radio Emergency Service (CARES)
Wednesday 8:00pm 147.405 Simplex

Digital Amateur Television Repeater

Digital ATV Output: 1244.500
Digital ATV Inputs: 1292.500, 1273.0, 917.0, 430.0
Analog ATV Input: 1270.000 FM (PL 192.8)

May 2026 and June 2026 Club Calendar

Friday May 15, 2026	**7:00pm**	**MDARC General Meeting - Our Saviors Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette**
Saturday June 6, 2026	8:00am	MDARC Technical Committee Meeting - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Monday June 8, 2026	6:30pm	MDARC Board of Directors Meeting - VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE
Friday June 19, 2026	7:00pm	MDARC General Meeting - Our Saviors Lutheran Church 1035 Carol Lane, Lafayette

Friday/Saturday/Sunday June 26-28, 2026 ARRL Field Day, Olympic High School, 2730 Salvio Street, Concord (see page 6)

APPENDIX

CONTAINS

Meeting Minutes

MDARC Board of Directors Meeting April 6, 2026

Held at Zoom online

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by Larry Bradley KK6QPE after it was determined that there was a quorum for conducting Club business.

2. Roll Call: Attendees via Zoom screen shots:

Officers: Larry Bradley KK6QPE, President; Mark Cloud W6SXA, Vice President; Brian Lotter KM6NGS, Secretary; Barbara Whysong K6WHY, Treasurer; Larry Loomer KI6LNB, Emergency Coordinator; Mike Warren W6MEW, Director at Large; Trevor Hall WA6JAU, Director at Large; Margaret Campos AJ6LP Director at Large; Cal Vasquez K6VT, Director at Large. Committee Chairs/Coordinator: Jan Kulisek KM6NFC; Grant Bowman K6CBK. Guests: Mike Patterson N6JGA; Dave Billeci WA6UHA.

3. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: Mike W6MEW, seconded by Trevor WA6JAU, proposed a motion to approve the March Board of Directors Meeting minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

4. Adopt Tonight's Agenda: The agenda was adopted since no objections were heard.

5. Officer Reports:

a. President Larry Bradley KK6QPE – Had no report. b. Vice-President Mark Cloud W6SXA – Had no report.
c. Secretary Brian Lotter KM6NGS – Had no report
d. Treasurer Barbara Whysong K6WHY – showed the 2026 quarterly budget and proposed a motion to update the License testing amount that is in the row for test fees paid to ARRL/VEC Subsidized by MDARC (test fee not collected) from $1,070.00 to $2,465.00. Brian KM6NGS, seconded by Mike W6MEW proposed a motion to approve. Barbara's motion was approved unanimously. Barbara went over some areas of the budget and asked if there were any questions.
6. Emergency Coordinator Report: Larry KI6LNB had nothing to report.
7. Directors at large reports: Mike Warren W6MEW – Had no report. Trevor Hall WA6JAU – Had no report. Margaret Campos AJ6LP – Had no report. Cal Vasquez K6VT – Had no report.

8. Committee Reports:

a. Auction: No report was expected.
b. Communications Trailer: Mike W6MEW had nothing to report.
c. Digital Media: Grant Bowman K6CBK reported that the PACIFICON website is operational.
f. Education and Training: Larry KK6QPE reported that session four of the General License class is coming up next and that there are about 12 students participating.
g. Election Committee: No report was expected.
h. Field Day: Larry KI6LNB reported that the contract for the parking lot is lined up, the Porta Potties are lined up for delivery and pickup and we are ready to go for Field Day.
i. Holiday Banquet/Dinner: No report was expected.
j. License Testing: Larry KI6LNB reported that there will be license testing at the General meeting on April 17.
k. Membership: Jan KM6NFC reported the following numbers: Paying members 184, including family members 229. New members this year 13, renewals last 30 days 8, past due 113 and lifetime + honorary members 12.
l. Mesh Committee: Mike W6MEW had nothing to report.
m. Outreach: No report was expected.
n. PACIFICON: There was no report.
o. Programs: Mark W6SXA reported that Jim Marchetti will be making the presentation at the upcoming General Meeting, subject to be determined.
p. Public Service: Larry KI6LNB reported that the Diablo Trails Challenge, Running Race from Castle Rock Park, Walnut Creek on Saturday, April 4, 2026 was completed and 16 HAMS participated. The organizers were very happy with our support and invited us back for next year.
q. Radio Lending Library: Cal K6VT reported that one item has been out on loan for a while and he is having trouble getting it back because the person wants to buy it. He has explained to them that the equipment in the Lending Library is not for sale.

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r. Rocky Ridge Repeater (Tech): Trevor WA6JAU reported that the committee does not recommend that MDARC puts a GMRS repeater on the hill. The best that we could do would be to put an antenna on the roof. The existing repeater does not appear to be an open repeater and is not listed. Larry KK6QPE stated that it should be listed whether it is open or not. Trevor will do some further research. Trevor also reported that they are planning to upgrade the multi-mode repeater on April 18, after which M17 will hopefully be back. Further trips are planned but the new cabinets are not there yet.
s. Scholarship: No report was expected.

9. Future Meetings:
General Meeting: 04/17/2026 will be a hybrid, in-person and online. Board Meeting 05/04/2026 on Zoom only.

10. Unfinished Business:
10.1 Summary Log of Motions: Brian KM6NGS reported that he had asked Trevor to test the Google Docs link, which he had sent to him, to see if it requires him to sign into his google account before being allowed access to the Board meeting Minutes folder which contains the file showing the log of motions. This is pending the results of Trevor's test.
10.2 License Testing Donations:
To be allocated only for Technician License Testing fees. $3500 was the initial donated amount.
Current Balance: $ To be allocated to all three License Testing Fees $1500 was the initial donated amount Current Balance: $ Barbara will send out the balances when she sends the financial report.
This was covered in section 5d. above.
10.3 Add verbiage to MDARC Registration section that indicates that an email address is optional, but without an email address, they will not receive a ballot to elect MDARC Board members and other important information from the Club: Larry KK6QPE stated that this is still pending. Larry KK6QPE asked Grant to take on this task and Grant agreed to do it.
10.4 Has the webpage been updated?
How can members indicate that they prefer to be anonymous?
Barbara K6WHY stated that, for membership renewals it is possible to opt for anonymous donations. For the donations link on the MDARC website, Barbara has created new event in Constant Contact for people to indicate whether they prefer their donations to be anonymous or not and also a place to indicate whether they need a receipt for their tax returns. In order to do this Barbara would need to swap out the link from PayPal to Constant Contact. This was agreed to by the Board since no objections were heard.
After further discussion, it was decided that we will provide an option, to remain anonymous or not, for each donation
10.5 Asset List: Inventory vs Asset? Dollar cutoff amount. STATUS REPORT
TREASURER: Bylaws- "Shall maintain a true and complete account of all Club assets and liabilities including capital items and prepare formal written reports as of June 30 and December 31. These reports shall be published in the Club newsletter." This is deferred until Barbara is ready to deal with it.
10.6 03/02/26 Board Minutes
"Zero Retries, which is an online HAM Radio publication that also has in-person conferences, attended PACIFICON last year and had asked to have their in in-person conference at PACIFICON this year and had asked to have their in in-person conference at PACIFICON this year. The Committee decided that there is not enough room to accommodate them and refused their request." Barbara K6WHY confirmed that Zero Retries has been notified of the PACIFICON board's decision and reported that they have reserved a nearby facility for the Friday of PACIFICON.
10.7 ARRL has designated 2026 as the year of the club
Leanna Figlewski, KC1RMP…Contributing Editor, QST
"ARRL has designated 2026 as the year of the club, recognizing that the growth and development of amateur radio rely on our vibrant community of radio clubs. With that, we are interested in featuring MDARC in one of the QST Club Spotlight columns for 2026.
Below are some questions that focus on MDARC's journey and what makes them an active and successful club to answer at your convenience.
1. What are some ways the club remains active?
2. According to your website, MDARC is participating in 22 public service events this year, and last year they participated in nearly double that. How does the club manage this many volunteer events in a year?
3. What does the club consistently do well that helps to successfully get hams on the air?
4. Of all that the club does, what does leadership think it does best/is most successful with (this can be more than one thing)?

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"Please let me know if this is something that MDARC would be interested in."
Margaret AJ6LP said that after she had led the development of the document containing the material that we planned to submit to ARRL, she had turned it over to Larry KK6QPE. Larry confirmed that he had given ARRL access to the document and that they would use the material in the document to develop the article about MDARC. ARRL will submit the article that they develop for MDARC's review before publishing it.

11 New Business:
11.1 MDARC Shared Device and Company Asset Use Policy This item is pending.
11.2 **Sa**n Ramon Marriott
Barbara K6WHY reported that the San Ramon Marriott is in foreclosure because they have missed a number of mortgage payments. She is planning to discuss this with management during her meeting with them next month. We have made a $500 advance deposit for this year and another $500 deposit for next year. Our next advance payment is due in August and by then we should know more. She added that a number of hotels in the area are in foreclosure and she has read that it is due to the reduction in business travel since Covid. People are now conducting business meetings over Zoom instead of travelling. There is an impossibility clause in our contract where the contract is simply terminated if it becomes impossible for either party to meet the conditions of the contract. She does not believe that we will be able to retrieve our deposits under those conditions. Margaret AJ6LP asked if there were any contingency plans. Larry, Barb and Mike N6JGA explained some of the many alternatives that have been considered in the past and explained why they did not fit our needs. It was also noted that foreclosure does not necessarily mean closure. This issue will be revisited in the coming months to monitor progress.

12 Good of the Order: Larry asked members to consider participating in the BEACON exercise which will take place on April 30.

13. Adjournment:
Cal K6VT, seconded by Mike W6MEW, proposed a motion to adjourn. The motion was carried unanimously.
Meeting Adjourned at 7:59pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Brian Lotter KM6NGS
Secretary, April 26, 2026.
These meeting minutes were signed digitally due to the digital meeting.

MDARC General Meeting Minutes March 20, 2026

Held as a hybrid Zoom and in-person meeting.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm by the MDARC president Larry Bradley KK6QPE.
a. Welcome to all: Larry KK6QPE welcomed all attendees. b. Pledge of Allegiance: This was made by attendees.
c. Safety, Exits, Rest Rooms: Larry KK6QPE indicated the positions of the emergency exits and restrooms.
d. Acknowledge new members: There were no new members in attendance.
e. Acknowledge visitors: Pat Miller KK6DBX, a member from Georgia was welcomed. Two other visitors were also welcomed.

2. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting: Larry KK6QPE announced that the February minutes, that were previously sent out by the Secretary, were approved since he had not heard any suggestions for changes.

3. Officer Reports:
a. President: Larry Bradley KK6QPE had no report and asked if any board member had an announcement. There were no other reports.
b. ****Vice President: Mark Cloud W6SXA. c. ****Secretary: Brian KM6NGS. d. Treasurer: Barbara Whysong K6WHY had nothing to add to her comments above. e. ****Emergency Coordinator: Larry KI6LNB.

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4. Directors at Large Reports: ****
Mike Warren W6MEW; Trevor Hall WA6JAU; Cal Vasquez K6VT; Margaret Campos AJ6LP.

5. Committee Reports – Standing:
a. ****Auction. TBD b. ****Outreach Coordinator Dick Wade, WM6G
c. ****Technical. Jim Tittle, K6SOE d. ****Digital Media. Grant Bowman, K6CBK
e. Education and Training: Larry Bradley, KK6QPE announced that the Technician Course and two GOTA sessions have been completed. This will be followed by the General Course which starts next Tuesday.
f. ****Pacificon Antonis Papatsaras AA6PP
g. ****Membership Jan Kulisek KM6NFC
h. Public Service: Larry Loomer KI6LNB announced the Oakland Marathon on Sunday March 22, the Diablo Trails Challenge on April 4, the Cinderella bike ride in Livermore, the Berkely Hills road race April 18 and the MS Walk on April 19.
i. **** Vehicle Committee MDARC-1. Jim Tittle, K6SOE
j. License Testing: Larry Loomer KI6LNB announced that there were three candidates tonight. They were all ladies and that they achieved high scores.
k. ****Trailer Committee. Mike Warren, W6MEW
l. Field Day: Larry Loomer KI6LNB announced that we have a contract for use of the parking lot, we are signed up with the school district and the portable toilet has been ordered. Barb K6WHY will be paying for the parking lot rental and getting the insurance document for the use of the parking lot.
m. ****Holiday Banquet. TBD n. ****Election Committee: TBD o. ****Program Committee.

**** not scheduled or unavailable

6. Unfinished Business:
a. None

7. New Business:
a. None

8. Adjourn Business Meeting: Before adjourning the meeting Larry KK6QPE asked if anybody had anything for the good of the order. There was a brief discussion where Larry KK6QPE outline some of the details of the upcoming Beacon exercise. There was a motion to end the business portion of the meeting which was adjourned at 7:17pm.

9. Raffle Prizes: Chocolate cream pie.

Speaker: John Litz, NZ6Q, Topic: ARRL

Respectfully submitted by:
Brian Lotter, KM6NGS, Secretary, on April 12, 2026.